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APPLICATION NO.		FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,693		09/17/2003	Ravinder Aggarwal	ASMEX.358DVI 6237	
20995	7590	05/03/2006		EXAMINER	
KNOBBE 2040 MAIN		ENS OLSON & BEA	ADAMS, GR	ADAMS, GREGORY W	
FOURTEEN		=	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
IRVINE, C	IRVINE, CA 92614			3652	
				DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extresions of time may be a vasible under the provision of 37 CF1 1-39(s). In or event, however, may a reply be timely filed  If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  Failure for reply whilin the set or extended period for reply will, by status, cause the application to become ABANDONE (33 U.S. C.§ 131). Any reply received by the Office later than three montes after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any seamed praints them adjustment. Set 37 CFR 1-704(s).  Status  1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006  2a) This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is non-final.  3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.  6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.  8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)    accepted or b)    objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in aboyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a), Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C								
Examiner		Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Cregory W. Adams   3652		10/665,693	AGGARWAL ET AL.					
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address = Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extensions of the maps the available under the provided with a provided of the provided of the provided of the provided with a provided with	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  **Seterable is of linker may be available under the provisions of 37° CFR 1.1346). In or event, however, may a may be timely filled dependent of the may be available under the provisions of 37° CFR 1.1346). In or event, however, may a may be timely filled the provisions of 37° CFR 1.1346). In or event, however, may a may be timely filled this communication or series application to section ASANDONED (30 U.S. 5, 133).  **Failure to reply within the set of extended period for raps well, by a faulte, cause the application to become ASANDONED (30 U.S. 5, 133). Or annoted patent term adjustment. See 37° CFR 1.744(b).  **This action is FINAL. 2b) [27] This action is non-final.  3) [27] This action is FINAL. 2b) [27] This action is non-final.  3) [28] Claim(s) 1.23 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Claim(s) 1.23 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) [28] Claim(s) 1.23 is/are allowed.  5) [28] Claim(s) 1.23 is/are allowed.  6) [29] Claim(s) 1.23 is/are rejected.  7) [29] Claim(s) 1.23 is/are rejected to by the Examiner.  10) [20] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  4) [20] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  Application Papers  9) [20] The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10] [20] All by [20] Some *C] None of:  1 [20] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  2) [21] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  3) [20] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  3) [20] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  3) [21] [22] Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  3) [22] Certified copies o								
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 FR 11-18(b). Inn event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTIS from the mailing date of his communications of 37 FR 11-18(b). Inn event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTIS from the mailing date of his communications of the spin SIX (6) MONTIS from the mailing date of his communication. Philip to reply which the set or rectived period for reply will, by station, such the spin SIX (6) MONTIS from the mailing date of this communication. Philip to reply received by the December of the SIX (5) MONTIS from the mailing date of this communication, aven if timely filed, may reduce any seared pattern term department. See 37 CFR 1.774(b).  Status  1) ⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.  2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.  2b) ⊠ This action is non-final.  3 ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4 ☐ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5 ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.  6 ☐ Claim(s) is/are rejected.  7 ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.  8 ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.  9 ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10 ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11 ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ Certified copies of	The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address					
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10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)	9) The specification is objected to by the Examine	r.						
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Art Unit: 3652

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Continued Examination**

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 23, 2006 has been entered.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-23 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yonemitsu et al. (US 6,143,083).

With respect to claims 1, 10 & 14-15, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a first substrate handling chamber 100, 500, front docking port 700, robot arm 66, 20, loadlock chamber 30, and a buffer station rack 5. Yonemitsu et al. further discloses different relative pitches between a front opening unified pod and a buffer station rack. C12/L22-28; C6/L63-C7/L65.

Application/Control Number: 10/665,693

Art Unit: 3652

With respect to claim 2, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a tool further comprising a buffer station rack B1-4 that holds 300mm wafers.

With respect to claim 3, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a tool further comprising a rear substrate handling chamber where a loadlock chamber is between a first substrate handling chamber and a rear substrate handling chamber.

With respect to claim 4, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a tool wherein a buffer station B1-4 has an inert environment. It is noted that this may be an open cassette or a closed cassette.

With respect to claim 5, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a buffer station B1-4 is purged.

With respect to claim 6, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a buffer station B1-4 is configured as an isolated environment.

With respect to claim 7, Yonemitsu et al. disclose discloses a buffer station B1-4 with an internal volume.

With respect to claim 8, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a buffer station rack B1-4 holds twenty-five 300mm wafers.

With respect to claim 9, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a loadlock chamber 16 has internal volume less than or equal to 9.156 liters.

With respect to claim 11, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a robot arm configured to employ a variable pitch end.

With respect to claim 12, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a substrate handling chamber has atmosphere.

With respect to claim 13, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a substrate handling chamber has reduced pressure.

With respect to claim 16, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a rear substrate handling chamber 100.

With respect to claim 17, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a loadlock chamber substrate capacity of 1 to 7 substrates.

With respect to claim 18, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a load lock chamber rack for holding 300mm wafers.

With respect to claim 19, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a substrate handling chamber at standard atmosphere pressure. Col. 7, Ins. 21-22.

With respect to claim 20, Yonemitsu et al. discloses a substrate handling chamber at reduced pressure.

With respect to claim 21, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a buffer station rack with reduced relative spacing between rack slots. C12/L22-28; C6/L63-C7/L65.

With respect to claim 22, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a buffer station rack at reduced pitch rack, accessed by robot arm. C12/L22-28; C6/L63-C7/L65.

With respect to claim 23, Yonemitsu et al. disclose a robot arm end effectors for transferring substrates. FIGS. 7-8B.

## Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### Conclusion

Application/Control Number: 10/665,693

Art Unit: 3652

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory W. Adams whose telephone number is (571) 272-8101. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th., 8:00-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571) 272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**GWA** 

EILEEN D. LILLIS SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Page 5